

REMARKS

Reexamination and reconsideration of the application as amended are requested. Support for the "but not including" language in amended claim 1 is found, for example, from figure 1 which shows that the image placement area 18 does not include the first scan-bar homing reference 14 and does not include the second scan-bar homing reference 16. Support for the "image placement area" language in amended claims 10, 11, 17, and 22 is found, for example, from item d) of original claim 1 and from figure 1 as previously discussed.

The examiner's rejection of claims 1-27 as being "anticipated", under 35 USC 102, is respectfully traversed. The examiner has rejected these claims as being unpatentable over Tanaka (US 5,973,797). Claims 2-9 depend from claim 1, claims 12-16 depend from claim 11, claims 18-21 depend from claim 17, and claims 23-27 depend from claim 22.

Amended claims 1, 10, 11, 17, and 22 now require an image placement area 18 disposed between, but not including, the first and second scan-bar homing references 14 and 16.

The examiner has identified positions #1, #2, #4, #6, and #8 of figure 5 of Tanaka as a first scan-bar homing reference and has identified position #0 of figure 5 of Tanaka as a second scan-bar homing reference. The examiner has also stated that Tanaka teaches an image placement area disposed between the first and second scan-bar homing references.

Applicants agree that a portion of the image placement area of Tanaka is disposed between positions #1, #2, #4, #6, and #8 and position #0 of figure 5 of Tanaka. The image placement area of Tanaka is the area of the platen glass 16 seen in figure 5 of Tanaka upon which different size documents may be placed. It is noted that the image placement area of Tanaka includes positions #1, #2, #4, #6, and #8 and includes position #0 contrary to the requirements of applicants' claims 1, 10, 11, 17, and 22. It is also noted that if the image placement area of Tanaka did not include positions #1, #2, #4, #6, and #8 and position #0 of figure 5, then the apparatus and method of Tanaka would not work for Tanaka's intended purpose of determining the size of a document placed on the platen glass. Thus Tanaka fails to

teach an image placement area disposed between, but not including, the first and second scan-bar homing references, as required by applicants' claims 1, 10, 11, 17, and 22.

The positions #1, #2, #4, #6, and #8 of figure 5 of Tanaka are positions, on the scan bar (the line sensor), whose photoelectric elements are used to detect an edge of a document to determine the size of the document (see the very long first sentence of the abstract). The position #0 of figure 5 of Tanaka is a predetermined position of an optical sensor which is located beneath the platen glass 16, which is not located on the scan bar, and which is used to determine if a document has been placed on the platen glass covering position #0. Notice that position #0 is a document reference. By no stretch of the imagination can position #0 be said to be a scan-bar homing reference. Thus, Tanaka lacks the second scan-bar homing reference spaced apart along the subscan axis from the first scan-bar homing reference, as required by applicants' claims 1, 10, 11, 17, and 22.

As previously stated, a separate optical sensor not associated with the scan bar (CD line sensor) determines if the document has been placed on the platen glass covering position #0 in Tanaka. The scan bar (CCD line sensor) of Tanaka is positioned about 20mm inwardly of the borderline region between the registration guide plate 18 and the platen glass 16 along the subscan direction, as shown in figure 5 to define a standby state before Tanaka determines the size of the document (see column 9, line 60 to column 10, line 2). The document size is determined, in Tanaka, with the scan bar stationary. Tanaka, in column 1, lines 53-64 discusses the prior art technique of determining the size of the document by doing a prescan, and in column 18, lines 17-23 discusses that he determines the size of the document without moving the scan bar and compares that to the prior art's time consuming moving of the scan bar along the subscan axis. It is noted that if Tanaka attempted to perform a prescan or an image scan from positions #1, #2, #4, #6, and #8 or from position #0, Tanaka would miss covering the areas of the image to the left of positions #1, #2, #4, #6, and #8 and to the right of position #0 in figure 5. Tanaka does not teach, suggest or describe performing a prescan or an image scan of an image by moving the scan bar along the subscan axis from the first scan-bar homing reference and performing a prescan or an image scan of an image by moving the scan bar along the subscan axis from the second scan-bar homing reference as specified in applicants' claims 10, 11, 17, and 22.

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Tanaka teaches determining if a document has been placed on the platen glass covering position #0 and determines the size of the document (e.g., B5 size paper, A4 size paper, etc.). Tanaka does not teach establishing a position reference for the scan bar each time the scan bar is moved from each of the first and second scan-bar homing positions (as required by applicants' claims 12-14, 18-20, and 23-26).

The positions #1, #2, #4, #6, and #8 (on the scan bar) and position #0 (not on the scan bar) of figure 5 of Tanaka are simply positions of optical sensors. They are not scan-bar calibration references (as required by applicants' claims 2-4). They are not sensor-element calibration references (as required by applicants' claims 13-14, 19-20, 24-26), and Tanaka does not teach calibrating sensor elements (as required by applicants' claims 13-14, 19-20, 24-26).

Inasmuch as each of the rejections has been answered by the above remarks and amended claims, it is respectfully requested that the rejections be withdrawn, and that this application be passed to issue. The Commissioner is authorized to charge any additional fees required or to credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 20-0809.

Respectfully submitted,

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